

APRIL 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS



Career Fair in Garden Grove

- About: In partnership with First District Supervisor Andrew Do, the County of Orange is hosting a Career Fair in Garden Grove. This free event is a chance to explore new careers and network with potential employers.
- When: May 1, 2024, from 10 a.m. 1 p.m.
- Where: Garden Grove Community Center
 11300 Stanford Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840
- Register for free: <u>bit.ly/OCCareerFairs</u>

OC Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

- When: May 8, 2024, at 3 p.m.
- Where: 33282 Golden Lantern St., Dana Point, CA 92629



Ed Bowen Exhibit

- **About**: The Vietnam War Through the Art and Photography of Ed Bowen exhibit features letters, memorabilia, photographs and more than 30 paintings and sketches produced by combat artist Ed Bowen during and after his tour of duty in Vietnam.
- When: May 11, 2024, at 4-6 p.m.Where: Heroes Hall Museum
 - 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626
- RSVP: bit.ly/HeroesHall-EdBowen









Portraits of Courage

- About: Portraits of Courage, an exhibit featuring paintings of post-9/11
 Veterans and their stories, is on loan at the Nixon Library for the first time on
 the West Coast. Each portrait is accompanied by a personal story written by
 President Bush, offering a glimpse into the Veterans' courage, resilience, and
 ongoing contributions. The exhibit also provides resources to help
 communities better support these Veterans.
- When: March 14 through May 19, 2024
- Where: Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum 18001 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886
- More information: nixonfoundation.org/portraits



Memorial Day Events

- About: Memorial Day honors and mourns the U.S. military personnel who died
 while serving in the Armed Forces. Come together as a community this
 Memorial Day! Orange County has some wonderful events planned to honor
 our local heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice with their bravery and
 service.
- When: May 27, 2024
- Find a Memorial Day event near you: bit.ly/2024OCMemorialDayEvents

Event information is provided for informational purposes only; the County makes no guarantee as to the accuracy of the event content and assumes no responsibility or liability.

NEWS

Eric Ensley Appointed Chairperson of CACVSO Training Committee

We are delighted to share that our very own Veterans Service Officer, Eric Ensley, has been asked to serve as the California Association of Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO) Training Committee Chairperson.

CACVSO is an organization of professional veterans' advocates composed of county veterans officers and staff. They are committed to providing a statewide, vital and efficient system of services and advocacy to Veterans, their dependents, and survivors.

As Training Chairperson, Eric will help guide the training needs, planning, and agendas relevant to enhancing the professional development of all CACVSO members and county veterans service offices statewide including collaboration with California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet).

It is an honor and compliment that the CACVSO considers us a leader and recognizes the good work and innovated processes we have recently implemented with the support of the Orange County Board of Supervisors to better improve the lives of Orange County Veterans.

Orange County Veterans Service Office (VSO) Hires New Staff to Enhance Support for Veterans and Dependents

The VSO has recruited three new Veterans Claim Representatives (VCR) and two new Office Technicians to continue service delivery for Veterans and their dependents seeking access to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits.

To meet with a VCR, schedule an appointment at <u>veterans.ocgov.com</u>, or walk into the VSO at 1300 S. Grand Ave., Bldg. B, Santa Ana, CA 92705. Operation hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

VA's PTSD Center Logo Used in Scam for Fake Donations

The VA learned its National Center for PTSD (NCPTSD) logo is being used in a scam to fraudulently solicit donations for a fake research study in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The fraudsters copied the <u>NCPTSD website</u> and changed executive leadership names and photos. They also copied a <u>CNN webpage</u> and added fake content about the fabricated study. NCPTSD is not involved with any research in the UAE, nor does VA solicit funds from Veterans for studies.

The VA has contacted the Office of the Inspector General and is working urgently with authorities to remove the fraudulent website.

To learn more about how to protect yourself from fraud, visit VA.gov/VSAFE.

DID YOU KNOW?



Don't let travel costs stop you from getting the care you deserve! The VA has a travel reimbursement program to help Veterans facing expenses related to in-person appointments. Whether it's a visit to a VA medical center or a community clinic, the VA wants to help you with those travel costs. See how you can qualify!

More information: https://news.va.gov/129612/veteran-travel-101-applying-for-reimbursement/

BY THE NUMBERS MONTHLY

Numbers are based on March 2024 service data.

Veterans Served (includes emails, calls, and appointments):

1,796

Claims Filed:

790

Benefits Granted by Veterans Administration:

\$899,498

College Tuition Savings:

\$203,190

For more information, contact the VSO at (714) 480-6555 or ocvso@occr.ocgov.com.

veterans.ocgov.com

(714) 480-6555

/OCVeteransServiceOffice







